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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE



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# ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of the  
RURAL DISTRICT

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FOR THE YEAR

1956



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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FOR THE YEAR

1956

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 1956

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 MR. H. W. BROOKS (Vice-Chairman).  
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 MR. C. WHEELER.  
 MR. H. F. WILSON.  
 MR. H. S. WRIGHT.

### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

#### Medical Officer of Health:

D. J. N. McNAB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(also Medical Officer of Health of Borough of Christchurch and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire).

#### Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor:

R. A. UPSTONE, Cert. R.S.I.

#### Additional Public Health Inspectors:

W. W. DYSON, Cert. R.S.I.

C. A. KERSWILL, Cert. R.S.I.

J. P. EMERSON, Cert. R.S.I. (Commenced 1 : 6 : 56).

# RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

## ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1956

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

I submit for your information and consideration my tenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District.

### Natural and Social Conditions:

The Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge comprises a strip of territory some six to nine miles wide and sixteen miles long along the western border of Hampshire. It embraces the valley of the Avon from the Wiltshire border to the Borough of Christchurch. The terrain varies from typical chalk downs to fertile river valley with forest and open barren heathland on either side.

The District contains sixteen parishes and the rising population has now reached 25,000 an increase of 22% in the past ten years.

Agriculture, with the emphasis on milk production, is the principal occupation but there is a vast factory producing a famous aircraft and a major engineering works, in addition to a varied selection of light industry.

### RAINFALL FOR 1956:

	ins.		ins.
January ... ..	5.39	July ... ..	1.98
February ... ..	0.13	August ... ..	4.19
March ... ..	1.05	September... ..	4.65
April ... ..	2.01	October ... ..	2.35
May ... ..	0.47	November... ..	0.89
June ... ..	2.30	December ... ..	6.54

TOTAL 31.95ins.



## GENERAL STATISTICS:

AREA: 90,139 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1956:  
25,000.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 7,766.

RATEABLE VALUE: at 1.10.56: £294,827.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE: £1,247 8s. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956: (as supplied by  
the Registrar-General):

LIVE BIRTHS:	Total	Male	Female
Total ... ..	374	191	183
Legitimate ... ..	355	183	172
Illegitimate ... ..	19	8	11

STILL BIRTHS:			
Total ... ..	10	6	4
Legitimate ... ..	10	6	4
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—

DEATHS:			
Total ... ..	485	209	276

## INFANT MORTALITY:

(Deaths under 1 year of age)

Total ... ..	10	7	3
Legitimate ... ..	9	7	2
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—	1

(Deaths under 4 weeks of age)

Total ... ..	8	6	2
Legitimate ... ..	8	6	2
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—

## MATERNAL MORTALITY:

Deaths from maternal causes	—	—
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## COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

	Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District	England and Wales
BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.13) per 1,000 estimated population ... ..	15.0	15.7
after application of comparability factor ... ..	16.9	—

## STILL-BIRTH RATE:

per 1,000 estimated population ... ..	0.4	0.37
per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	26.0	23.0

## DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.53)

per 1,000 estimated population ... ..	19.4	11.7
after application of comparability factor ... ..	10.3	—

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

(under one year of age)

All causes per 1,000 live births ... ..	26.7	23.8
---	------	------

## NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(under 4 weeks of age)

All causes per 1,000 live births ... ..	21.4	16.9
---	------	------

## ILLEGITIMACY RATE:

Per 1,000 live births ... ..	50.8	46.0
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## MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

Per 1,000 total (live and still births)	—	0.56
---	---	------

## SPECIAL CAUSES:

Death Rate per 1,000 population:

Whooping Cough ... ..	—	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	—	0.00
Influenza ... ..	0.16	0.06
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	0.00
Pneumonia ... ..	0.64	0.53
Tuberculosis ... ..	0.12	0.12
Cancer (lung and bronchus) ... ..	0.40	0.41
(all causes) ... ..	2.80	2.07

## COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

(Since the District was formed in 1932)

Year	Population	Ringwood and Fordingbridge			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	18,400	60	15.4	12.6	65	15.3	12
1936	18,640	48	13.3	13.1	59	14.8	12.1
1940	20,430	45	14.1	13.2	55	14.6	14.3
1944	19,520	25	16.2	12.6	46	17.6	11.6
1948	22,270	28	20.3	10.8	34	17.9	10.8
1952	24,060	28	16.2	12.4	27	15.3	11.3
1953	24,720	34	16.6	14.5	27	15.5	11.4
1954	24,610	15	13.4	12.9	25	15.2	11.3
1955	24,760	24	13.4	15.2	24.9	15.0	11.7
1956	25,000	27	15.0	19.4	23.8	15.7	11.7

## CAUSES OF DEATH:

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	5	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	7	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	19	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	2	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	33	64
18. Coronary disease, angina ... ..	24	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	7	10
20. Other heart disease ... ..	34	66
21. Other circulatory disease ... ..	16	17
22. Influenza ... ..	2	2
23. Pneumonia ... ..	8	8
24. Bronchitis ... ..	8	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	3	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	4	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ... ..	3	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined disease ... ..	23	26
33. Motor Vehicle accidents ... ..	2	1
34. All other accidents ... ..	4	2
35. Suicide ... ..	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ... ..	—	—
TOTAL (all causes) ... ..	209	276



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

The general incidence of infectious disease was low.

The incidence of scarlet fever was the highest since the war. In part this was accounted for by a small outbreak in a boarding school, largely among boys already confined to the sick quarters with chicken pox. The remainder of the cases were sporadic or family outbreaks.

A sharp outbreak of measles occurred in the village of Breamore in the autumn and a very high proportion of the susceptibles were infected. A few associated cases occurred in Fordingbridge but the infection did not otherwise spread in the district.

At the latter end of the year a child attending Fordingbridge school developed poliomyelitis. In the subsequent investigation several contacts were discovered to have minor ailments suggestive of mild non-paralytic poliomyelitis. A number of contacts without symptoms were found to be harbouring poliomyelitis virus. Of a further eleven children selected at random from associated classes, three were found to be harbouring polio virus. Negative specimens were in due course obtained from all known to have been positive but it is apparent that at the time the virus was widely prevalent, yet only one paralytic case occurred.

A further case of poliomyelitis occurred in a Ringwood child nearly two months later but no association between this case and the Fordingbridge series could be ascertained. In this instance it proved impossible to isolate poliomyelitis virus from the patient or from the home contacts.

Notifications	Rate per 1,000 population		
	Number	Ringwood & Fordingbridge	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever ... ..	28	1.12	0.74
Whooping Cough ... ..	9	0.36	2.07
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	0.00
Erysipelas ... ..	1	0.04	0.09
Measles ... ..	56	2.24	3.59
Pneumonia ... ..	23	0.92	0.57
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ... ..	1	0.04	0.04
(Non-paralytic) ... ..	—	—	0.03
Meningococcal infection ... ..	—	—	0.03
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	0.04	0.25
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	3	0.12	0.26
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	1.09
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	0.04	0.03

## DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION:

The County Council further extended the scheme for immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough to include immunisation against tetanus in July. The majority of children, in the area immunised for the first time, are now receiving "Triple Antigen," i.e. a material containing protective substances against all three diseases.

A small increase has taken place in the number of children immunised against diphtheria for the first time, either alone or in combination with other antigens. 312 children were immunised, of these 272 were under five and 40 over five. 416 children received boosting doses. 55% of children born within the previous twelve months were immunised.

The following table sets out the number of children in the District who have been immunised against diphtheria. Treatment carried out prior to 1946 is not included since records at that time were kept in an incomplete form. In recent years the majority of primary immunisations have also included immunisation against whooping cough.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNITY INDEX—ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31.12.56

Number of children in the District on 31st December, 1956, who have completed a course of diphtheria immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1942, and 31st December, 1956:

Age on 31.12.56 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1956	1-4 1952-1955	5-9 1947-1951	10-14 1942-1946	Under 15 Total
A. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1952-1956 ... ..	46	838	1,363	921	3,168
B. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1942-1951 ... ..			808	536	1,344

## TUBERCULOSIS:

The clinic facilities for the diagnosis and the home observation and treatment of tuberculous cases throughout the District are unchanged. Cases south of Fordingbridge come under the care of

the Chest Physician at Christchurch and those in the northern part of the area under the Chest Physician at Salisbury. There is now no waiting list for admission to Sanatorium in this area.

The number of cases notified showed little change from the previous year.

The total number on the register at 31.12.56 was 227.

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
99	72	38	18

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1947-1956:

		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1947	... ..	12	5	3	1	4	4	—	1
1948	... ..	13	5	3	2	3	2	—	—
1949	... ..	12	14	2	2	3	4	2	1
1950	... ..	17	17	8	2	4	5	1	—
1951	... ..	8	8	4	1	2	2	—	1
1952	... ..	11	13	3	—	—	—	—	1
1953	... ..	9	6	1	2	1	1	—	—
1954	... ..	9	5	2	1	4	2	—	—
1955	... ..	7	7	—	—	—	1	—	—
1956	... ..	8	3	1	1	1	2	—	—

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY:

This area is served by the Bournemouth Mass Radiography unit and in the past difficulty has been experienced in siting the unit owing to the lack of suitable halls for clerical and dressing purposes. On this account no visit has been made to Ringwood since 1952. However the unit has now been equipped with a caravan to serve the dual purpose of dressing room and office. Independent now of halls, the unit can frequently be sited in a more prominent position with an improvement in public response.

During the year public sessions were held in Ringwood and in Fordingbridge, and in each case there was a substantial improvement on the figures of the previous visit. The unit also visited factories at Ringwood and at Hurn. The details of the examinations given below have been kindly supplied by the Director, Dr. Stuart Robertson.

Hurn	... ..	1,843
Ringwood	... ..	2,343
Ringwood (Wellworthy's)	... ..	445
Fordingbridge	... ..	988
		—
		5,619
		—



**Statistics:**

TABLE 1

Number examined ... ..	5,619
Recalled for large film examination ... ..	144 (2.56%)
Recalled for clinical examination ... ..	49 (0.88%)
Referred to Chest Clinic ... ..	37 (0.66%)
(a) probably tuberculous ... ..	29 (0.52%)
(b) probably non-tuberculous ... ..	8 (0.14%)
Referred to doctor or hospital ... ..	12 (0.21%)

TABLE II (a)

Number referred to the appropriate Chest Clinic as probably tuberculous—29.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. No. of cases diagnosed as active pulmonary tuberculosis:			
(a) Unilateral disease ... ..	2	2	4
(b) Bilateral disease ... ..	2	1	3
2. Tuberculosis, occasional supervision only ...	11	3	14
3. Suspect tuberculosis, not yet confirmed ...	2	—	2
4. Classified as inactive tuberculosis, no further action considered necessary ... ..	2	1	3
5. Found to be non-tuberculous ... ..	2	1	3
	21	8	29

TABLE II (b)

**Non-tuberculous Cases:**

Referred to Chest Clinic ... ..	8
Referred to doctor or hospital ... ..	12
	—
	20
	—
	Male. Female. Total.
1. Cardiovascular lesions ... ..	2 1 3
2. Non-tuberculous pulmonary conditions ... ..	11 5 16
3. Carcinoma of lung ... ..	1 — 1
	—
	14 6 20

## TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE:

The work of the Christchurch, Lymington and District T.B. Care Committee continues to extend and during the past year the number of cases assisted rose to 54, nearly £400 being expended. The provision of additional nourishment and fuel to deserving cases was the major source of expenditure. The Committee continues to derive the bulk of its funds from the local sale of N.A.P.T. Christmas seals. Lady Manners remains as Chairman with Major F. A. L. Lawrence as Hon. Secretary and Lt. Col. M. E. Morgan as Hon. Treasurer.

The devoted work of this purely voluntary committee is worthy of high praise.

## SMALLPOX VACCINATION:

Smallpox vaccination statistics in this district remain disappointing. Only 34.8% of babies under one year were vaccinated during 1956 as compared with 37.8% during 1955. These figures are somewhere near the national average but they represent a high state of unpreparedness. Smallpox remains endemic in many parts of the world and the speed of modern transport makes its introduction into this country an ever present possibility. Primary vaccination in adults is unpleasant and not without danger. Vaccination in infancy causes minimal discomfort and re-vaccination of the previously vaccinated is commonly a trivial thing.

## POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION:

In January the Minister of Health announced that a scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis was to be introduced in this country, using a British produced Salk type vaccine.

Registration of children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive was invited, lists closing at the end of March. The general response was less than was perhaps expected.

In this district 482 children were registered, about 16% of those eligible. Vaccine was distributed in proportion to the number of registrations and only 46 of those registered here were inoculated before the end of the year.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES:

Constituent laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service are situate at Boscombe and at Salisbury. Bacteriological specimens of epidemiological interest from private practitioners, or from the Public Health Department, are examined free of charge and the Directors, Dr. G. J. G. King at Boscombe and Dr. M. S. Pereira at Salisbury, are available to give their valuable advice and guidance on epidemiological matters.



The following specimens emanating from this District during 1956 were examined at the Boscombe Laboratory.

Nose and Throat ... ..	5
Sputa ... ..	3
Faecal and Urine ... ..	50
Water ... ..	43
Milk ... ..	48
Ice Cream ... ..	24
Miscellaneous ... ..	47
	—
	220
	—

#### WATER SUPPLIES:

The District is supplied with water from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated in the Borough of Christchurch. The Company draws its raw water from the Avon at Christchurch and treats it by slow sand filtration and super chlorination. The resultant water is of satisfactory purity and the supply is constant and adequate.

The new source of supply which the Company is developing at Hale Park from 300 feet boreholes was in use during the summer for a period of some two months, temporary arrangements being made for chloramine treatment. The whole of this district will eventually be supplied from this source at which the installation will be unmanned and fully automatic. Electric devices will cut off the supply and warn the works at Christchurch in the event of any fault developing.

The last remaining village to be supplied with mains water, Breamore, received its supply on 12th November.

During the year 43 samples of water were taken from sources of supply other than the mains, 20 of these were found to be polluted.

The following list gives the number of premises, in parishes, supplied with main water as noted in the Water Company's records, together with a number of converted war time huts supplied through central meters.

Parish	Dwellings supplied direct	Approximate population supplied
Martin ... ..	94	293
Rockbourne ... ..	93	290
Whitsbury ... ..	50	156
Breamore ... ..	5	16
Hale ... ..	139	434
Woodgreen ... ..	127	396
Damerham ... ..	106	330
Fordingbridge ... ..	1,246	3,887
Harbridge and Ibsley ... ..	103 plus 51 huts	480
Ellingham ... ..	131 plus 6 huts	427
St. Leonards and St. Ives ... ..	509	1,588
Ringwood ... ..	2,219	6,923
Burley ... ..	461	1,438
Hurn ... ..	29 plus 75 huts	324
Sopley ... ..	211 plus 59 huts	842
Christchurch East ... ..	865 plus 95 huts	2,995

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

No alteration has taken place during the year at the Ringwood Sewage Works. The usual difficulties, which have been repeatedly described in the past, were experienced in the effective disposal of the settled effluent by land irrigation. The constant danger of pollution of surrounding water courses has been a source of serious concern to all engaged in the management of the works, and it cannot be avoided during periods of heavy and prolonged rainfall. The Council's consulting engineers are now preparing a scheme for modernising the works and increasing the capacities of pumps and rising mains.

The Fordingbridge scheme has continued to operate successfully and is producing an excellent effluent. 530 properties are now connected to it.

The usual difficulties have been experienced with effluent disposal at a number of your isolated Council Estates.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES:

Milk production in the area is supervised by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Retail Distribution is supervised by officers of this Council. Pasteurisation plants are the responsibility of the County Council and on its behalf your officers supervise the one plant which exists in the District. Samples are sent regularly to the Laboratory to check the efficiency of the pasteurisation. The plant is efficient and is satisfactorily operated.

The following details of milk production in the District have been kindly supplied by the Divisional Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Parish	T.T.	Undesignated	Registered Producers
Martin ... ..	9	2	11
Rockbourne ... ..	12	—	12
Whitsbury ... ..	5	—	5
Breamore ... ..	14	1	15
Hale ... ..	9	2	11
Woodgreen ... ..	3	—	3
Damerham ... ..	10	2	12
Fordingbridge ... ..	45	5	50
Harbridge and Ibsley ... ..	13	4	17
Ellingham ... ..	14	2	16
St. Leonards and St. Ives ... ..	9	2	11
Ringwood ... ..	32	1	33
Burley ... ..	8	3	11
Hurn ... ..	6	1	7
Sopley ... ..	22	5	27
Christchurch East ... ..	31	3	34
	242	33	275

The following table shows the milk production since 1949 when the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 came into force with its associated Regulations.

	1949	1953	1954	1955	1956
Registered Producers ... ..	302	288	291	281	275
Holders of T.T. Licences ... ..	88	145	212	220	242
Holders of Accredited Licences ... ..	48	41	—	—	—

The continued rise in the number of holders of T.T. licences is gratifying. 88.6% of the producers in the area are now holders of T.T. licences.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES:

The Ringwood Slaughter House has continued to be used by a syndicate of local butchers. The number of animals killed increased by 489 to 3,833 of which 17% were large animals. No material change has been made in the premises which remain poor by modern slaughter house standards.

The licence of the small private slaughter house in Fordingbridge was not renewed in 1956.

#### MEAT INSPECTION:

Inspection of all carcasses is carried out by your inspectors. It is now seldom necessary for the work to be done outside normal working hours. The total of meat condemned fell from the 4½ tons of last year to 3 tons 16 cwt. in spite of the increased kill, but the amount of meat condemned owing to tuberculosis rose to just over 2 tons—54% of the total.



## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1956

	Cattle exc. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ... ..	579	74	536	799	1845	—
Number inspected ... ..	579	74	536	799	1845	—
ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	5	—	7	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	127	14	—	13	63	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ...	21.9	18.9	.9	1.6	3.7	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	11	2	1	—	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	2.5	2.7	.1	—	.6	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

## SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS:

The County Council is the sampling authority and the following details of substances sampled within this area during the year ended 31st March, 1957, have been kindly supplied by the Chief Inspector, Mr. C. O. Perry.

Article	No. Taken	
	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Butter and Other Fats ... ..	3	—
Drugs ... ..	2	1
Sausages, Meat and Fish Products ...	6	—
Spirits ... ..	5	—
Other Foods ... ..	10	—
Milk, Channel Islands ... ..	32	—
Milk ... ..	58	1
	—	—
	116	2
	—	—

The 32 Channel Islands Milk samples proved to contain an average of 4.13% Fat and 9.04% Non-Fatty Solids and the 58 Milk samples an average of 3.79% Fat and 8.88% Non-Fatty Solids.

#### UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES:

One sample of milk was purchased from a producer on the 30th April, 1956, and certified to contain 11.6% of added water.

Proceedings were taken and the case was heard at Ringwood on the 28th June, 1956.

Result: The producer was given an absolute discharge and ordered to pay £6 10s. 0d. costs.

An informal sample of zinc ointment was certified to contain 7.5% instead of between 14 and 16% Zinc Oxide as is required by the British Pharmacopoeia 1953. The follow-up sample taken from the same trader was certified to be genuine.

#### FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 came into force on 1st January, 1956. Their particular function is to help to control the still rising incidence of food poisoning, and to this end they lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises and stalls, the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the food trade, the construction of food premises and the facilities to be provided, the control of smoking, and the temperatures at which certain readily contaminated foods are to be maintained.

The Regulations necessarily entail a considerable amount of additional work for the Health Department and in this connexion a further Public Health Inspector was appointed on 1st June.



Your attention is particularly drawn to the details of food inspection set out in the later part of this report.

### FOOD POISONING:

One case of food poisoning was reported during the year. This was a child whose symptoms appeared to have arisen as the result of a meal consumed outside the District. No bacteriological confirmation was obtained.

### SCHOOLS:

Some progress has been made towards modernising our schools. Martin, Damerham, Rockbourne and Harbridge have been supplied with water-borne sanitation and two new class-rooms have been built at Rockbourne.

There remain eleven schools with bucket sanitation.

The new Secondary School at Fordingbridge, to house 320 pupils, is approaching completion. This will relieve the overcrowding in Fordingbridge and will enable the all age schools in the surrounding rural areas to become Junior Schools.

School meals are available at all schools. In most cases these are served in classrooms or in dining halls which, because of overcrowding, it is necessary also to use as classrooms.

### CHILD WELFARE CLINICS:

The County Council conducts five Child Welfare Centres, each being attended by an Assistant County Medical Officer and by the Health Visitor in whose area the Centre lies. The Centres are administered by voluntary committees of local ladies who maintain the records and manage the sale and distribution of welfare foods and medicaments. I wish to express our gratitude for the invaluable work of these local committees.

Child Welfare Centre	Place	Time
Breamore	Woodgreen Hall	First Thursday in month at 2.30 p.m.
Fordingbridge	Victoria Room	First and Third Tuesday in month at 2.30 p.m.
Ringwood	Conway Hall	First and Third Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Bransgore	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Fridays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Hurn	Village Hall	Second and Fourth Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.

A further Centre is conducted at Burley by a local general practitioner, largely for the benefit of his own patients.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47:

One case was dealt with under the powers conferred by the above Section. She was a woman suffering from a grave anaemia who refused to accept proper treatment or care, and was in serious danger of dying. She was committed to hospital under the emergency powers of the 1951 amendment and retained for a further six weeks under a continuing order granted by the Magistrates. She made a dramatic improvement under effective treatment and her whole outlook on life changed markedly for the better. The improvement has been maintained and she is now most grateful for the action taken.

## “GIPSY” CAMPS:

Conditions at the various camps throughout the district are virtually unchanged.

At Thorney Hill Compound there are now eight families comprising 41 persons. In times of prolonged wet weather the conditions in this compound have to be seen to be believed. The huts are commonly surrounded by thick black mud up to nine inches in depth. With their often inadequate footwear the condition of the children in school can well be imagined. Round worm infestation remains prevalent.

## HOUSING:

New construction has proceeded at a rate comparable with the previous year but the indications are that a considerable acceleration of the pace will take place in the next year or two. At the end of the year 217 families still occupied huttled accommodation, a reduction of 46 during the year. The Ministry has decreed that huts shall be closed by the end of 1958 and the Council has therefore a formidable task before it.

Of those in huts there are some 26 families of gipsy type whom it will be difficult to house in Council accommodation on the normal Council estate. Approaches to the Ministry to permit the erection of some form of sub-standard accommodations have met with no success and the Housing Committee is giving urgent consideration how best to deal with the situation.

The County Welfare Department has recently made strenuous efforts to encourage such families to raise their standards and to respect their financial obligations. This work is to be extended by the appointment of social workers with special responsibilities in this connection.

No. on Housing Waiting List 31.12.56 ... ..	Approx. 420
No. of Council Houses completed in 1956 ... ..	67
No. of Private Houses completed in 1956 ... ..	175

Dwellings administered by the Council at 31.12.56:

Permanent houses ... ..	863
Prefabs ... ..	50
Huts (family units) ... ..	217

**HURN AIRPORT:**

The Airport continues to fulfil an essential function in accepting diversions when Airports in the London area are unusable, principally owing to fog.

Emergency port health duties and the medical inspection of aliens were again carried out by Dr. W. D. Higson, Dr. C. Conyers Morrell, Dr. D. McIntyre and myself.

Extensive use of the Airport is made by aircraft manufacturers for testing purposes, and a considerable amount of flying training and ground control instruction is carried out. Internal scheduled and chartered flights are increasing.

The following table shows the arrivals of diverted aircraft requiring the presence of a medical officer.

**ARRIVALS, 1956.**

Month	No. of aircraft	No. of crew	No. of British Passengers	No. of Alien Passengers
January ... ..	29	203	625	279
February ... ..	—	—	—	—
March ... ..	—	—	—	—
April ... ..	—	—	—	—
May ... ..	—	—	—	—
June ... ..	1	8	16	7
July ... ..	—	—	—	—
August ... ..	—	—	—	—
September ... ..	4	20	194	—
October ... ..	—	—	—	—
November ... ..	—	—	—	—
December ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>286</b>



**GENERAL REMARKS:**

The health of the District has been satisfactory throughout the year.

The incidence of infectious disease was low.

The estimated population increased by 240 to 25,000.

The Birth Rate showed an increase after the very low figure of the past two years.

The Infant Mortality Rate again increased to a small extent.

The crude Death Rate rose sharply and was the highest for many years. This is due to the deaths occurring in institutions for the aged or chronic sick. Such deaths are in the main of old people from other areas, notably Bournemouth. The Registrar General has adjusted the comparability factor specifically to take account of this situation and our corrected death rate is below the national average.

Conditions at the Ringwood sewage works have not improved and can only be remedied by further treatment works.

Housing remains a major problem particularly the accommodation of certain dwellers in Council huts.

In conclusion I would again thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and encouragement, the Clerk for his advice and guidance on matters of doubt, and the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

D. J. N. McNAB,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1957.

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT  
OF THE YEAR 1956 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND  
FORDINGBRIDGE.**

## **Part 1 of the Act**

**1. INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	23	—	—	—
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	121	54	1	—
ii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

## **2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:**

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>

## **Part VIII of the Act** **OUTWORK** (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel making, c.)	61					





RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Surveyor

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FOR THE YEAR

1956

Public Offices,  
Ringwood.  
July, 1957.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor dealing with the work carried out by my Department during the year 1956.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Housing Acts ... ..	622
Dangerous Buildings ... ..	3
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	174
Gipsy Camps ... ..	31
Nuisances and Complaints ... ..	377
Water Supplies ... ..	74
Meat and Other Foods ... ..	499
Knacker's Yard ... ..	10
Slaughtermens' Licences ... ..	10
Food and Drugs ... ..	533
Milk and Dairies ... ..	46
Watercress Beds ... ..	9
Shops Act ... ..	45
Factories Act ... ..	54
Notifiable Infectious Diseases ... ..	62
Food Poisoning ... ..	3
Rodent Control ... ..	3335
Ringwood Sewerage ... ..	100
Fordingbridge Sewerage ... ..	114
Trade Effluents ... ..	39
Public Cleansing ... ..	166
Other Services administered by Council ... ..	236
Petroleum and Carbide ... ..	100
Building Byelaws ... ..	2948
Town and Country Planning ... ..	498
Estate Maintenance ... ..	3615
Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Act ... ..	183
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act ... ..	6
Unclassifiable Inspections ... ..	70
Legal Proceedings ... ..	36
Diversion of footpaths ... ..	25
Land charges ... ..	52
Total Visits and Inspections ... ..	14075

## HOUSING

### SLUM CLEARANCE.

The work of dealing with houses unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition was proceeded with throughout the year.

Clearance Area action in connection with a terrace of four unfit cottages at Ringwood was deferred until such time as the problem of satisfactorily re-housing one of the occupants, a blind aged widow, has been solved.

A survey of the Parish of Martin revealed 16 unfit dwellings unsuitable for reconditioning and requiring demolition. The Housing Committee resolved to deal with 7 of these as a Clearance Area and action under Sec. 11 was taken in respect of 8, Six Demolition Orders being made and two undertakings accepted. An interesting fact which emerged from this survey was that the younger generation apparently would not accept the standard of living conditions of their parents; of the 16 dwellings in question 2 were empty, 5 occupied by persons aged 70 years and over, 5 by persons between 60 and 70 years of age and the occupants of the remainder were all middle aged.

### HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS.

Detailed inspections of unfit houses were carried on throughout the year and reports made to the Housing Committee in respect of 35 houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at a reasonable expense of being made fit. 12 were recommended for Clearance Area action and 23 for action under Section 11.

The following summary relates to the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year:—

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	25
Houses demolished ... ..	2
Unfit houses closed (Undertakings) ... ..	8
Unfit houses made fit (a) by informal action ... ..	26
(b) by formal action ... ..	1

A total of 317 visits and inspections were made.

### IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS.

During the year 60 preliminary enquiries were received. 27 formal applications were approved in respect of 32 units of accommodation; all were improvements of existing dwellings with the exception of one conversion of stabling to provide dwelling accommodation. The value of the grants made was £7,222. A total of 305 visits and inspections were made.

In view of the Government's request to local authorities at the beginning of the year for restricted expenditure, the Building Bye-



laws Committee considered ways and means of reducing the amount to be incurred in making grants (the annual loan charges on grants approved then amounted to £1,462 of which 25 per cent. is met out of rates) and recommended some curtailments in the operation of the scheme. The Council, however, agreed to make no change and the policy of treating each application on its merits was continued.

At the 31st December, 1956 the total grants made by the Council since the inception of the scheme amounted to £24,537 allowing for grants withdrawn or repaid during the period.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No. of licensed moveable dwelling sites on register...	68
No. of licensed moveable dwellings (other than sites) on register ... ..	1
No. of inspections made ... ..	174
Applications for licences received during the year ...	29

### GIPSY CAMPS.

There are a number of small gipsy encampments in the district totalling some 21 families; in four cases gipsies own their sites. One encampment at Thorneyhill is on Forestry Commission land.

The Shack Dwellers Committee have given very serious consideration to the provision of improved accommodation for these families and also for those occupying Council huts at Ibsley and Holmsley.

### COMPLAINTS.

54 complaints were received during the year involving a total of 377 visits and inspections—details are as follows:—

Nature of Nuisance	Complaints Received	Number of Visits
Insanitary conditions ... ..	13	39
Unsatisfactory and insufficient water supplies ...	1	7
Dust, effluvia or smoke ... ..	—	20
Flea or fly infestations ... ..	1	21
Offensive smells ... ..	5	22
Offensive accumulations ... ..	3	14
Cesspools and drains ... ..	9	171
Milk and Dairies ... ..	2	2
Rats and Mice ... ..	9	4
Animals ... ..	5	28
Miscellaneous ... ..	6	43
Overcrowding ... ..	—	6
	54	377



## WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of visits and inspections made (excluding visits following complaints) ... ..	74
Number of samples collected ... ..	43
Number of samples unsatisfactory ... ..	20

The Public Health and General Purposes Committee gave consideration to the provision of a piped water supply to serve some six dwellings at Lower Daggons which are without water. The cost of extending the West Hants Water Company's main from the Wimborne and Cranborne District was estimated to cost £1,550 and the scheme was not proceeded with.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Ringwood Slaughter House remains under the control and operation of the local Butchers' Association.

### MINISTRY OF FOOD FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME.

#### DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION OF PIGS.

The Ministry of Food continues to use the Ringwood Slaughter House as a Deadweight Certification Centre with the Council's Meat Inspectors acting as Certifying Officers.

During the year 470 certificates were issued in respect of 1357 pigs.

### ANIMAL CARCASSES.

Inspections are made of all animals slaughtered involving the detailed examination of carcasses and offal. 449 visits were made for this purpose.

The total number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughter House was 3833 made up as follows:—

Cattle excluding cows ... ..	579
Cows ... ..	74
Calves ... ..	536
Sheep and lambs ... ..	799
Pigs ... ..	1845

As a result of these examinations 8513½lbs. of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption; diseases and weights are:—

Disease or Condition	Weight in lbs.
Tuberculosis ... ..	4643
Distomatosis ... ..	2185
Abscess ... ..	437
Ascaris Lumbricoides ... ..	230
Pneumonia ... ..	162 $\frac{1}{2}$
C. Bovis ... ..	152
Cirrhosis ... ..	133
Telangiectasis ... ..	120
Fevered ... ..	68
Bruising ... ..	62
Actinomycosis ... ..	54
Parasites ... ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
Septic Omphalophlebitis ... ..	48
Arthritis ... ..	28
Hydatid Cyst ... ..	28
Joint Ill ... ..	25
Hydronephrosis ... ..	23
Immaturity ... ..	20
Fractured ... ..	18
Pericarditis ... ..	13
Pleurisy ... ..	8
Peritonitis ... ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
	8513 $\frac{1}{2}$

Condemned meat is treated with acid green dye and disposed of to Midland Cattle Products where fat extraction and other processes are carried out and the residue used in the manufacture of fertilizers. Some livers are disposed of locally for the feeding of mink.

The following summary shows the total number of carcasses inspected and the amounts of meat condemned each year since 1950.

	No. of carcasses	Condemned Meat (lbs.)
1956 ... ..	3833	8513 $\frac{1}{2}$
1955 ... ..	3344	9962
1954 ... ..	4811	10254
1953 ... ..	4385	21452
1952 ... ..	4166	25458
1951 ... ..	3232	35911
1950 ... ..	3714	50307

## OTHER FOODS.

50 visits were made in connection with the examination of foodstuffs at food shops and stores, the quantities found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered were as follows:—

Meat ... ..	56lbs. and 92 tins
Fish ... ..	53lbs. and 3 tins
Fruit ... ..	76 tins
Vegetables ... ..	58 tins
Milk ... ..	9 tins
Soup ... ..	4 tins

Unsound food is disposed of by destruction and burying at the Verwood Road Refuse Dump.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and the Amendment Act, 1954, 12 licences were issued to slaughtermen. One slaughter house licence was renewed and one knacker's yard licence.

## FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955 came into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

## FOOD HYGIENE.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 came into operation on the 1st January, 1956. These modify and extend the hygiene requirements previously enforceable under the 1938 Act.

The principal extensions relate to:—

- (i) specific requirements designed to prevent the contamination of food (e.g. Regulations 8 and 9);
- (ii) provision of sinks or other facilities for washing food and equipment (Regulation 19);
- (iii) the provision of a constant supply of hot water for sinks, wash basins, etc., in food premises and of a supply of hot water on stalls and vehicles (Regulations 15, 16, 19 and 28);
- (iv) restrictions on the preparation and packing of food in or about domestic premises (Regulation 7);
- (v) the conditions under which certain foods that provide a particularly favourable medium for food poisoning organisms are to be kept in food premises (Regulation 25);



- (vi) a requirement to provide vehicles used for the transport of meat with duckboards and separate receptacles for offal and, where the vehicles are not enclosed, a covering supported by a frame or poles (Regulation 29);
- (vii) The circumstances in which persons carrying meat are required to wear overalls and head coverings (Regulation 30).

The work of detailed inspections of premises to which these regulations apply was commenced in June; occupiers are advised on the provisions of the Regulations and of all works necessary to bring premises up to the required standard. Detailed informal notices are subsequently served.

Up to the end of the year 65 premises had been inspected involving the service of 64 informal notices. The occupiers are not over enthusiastic in this matter as in every instance the notices require works varying from cleansing and the provision of new floors and ceilings to the installation of hot and cold water supplies, sanitary fittings and structural alterations.

#### FOOD PREMISES.

533 inspections including those under the Food Hygiene Regulations were made in connection with food premises as follows:—

	No. on Register	Inspections
Food Shops ... ..	155	106
Bakehouses ... ..	16	20
Restaurant Kitchens ... ..	42	53
Ice Cream Premises (Sec. 16) ... ..	93	28
Preserved Food Premises (Sec. 16)	18	11
Licensed Premises ... ..	51	35
Market Stalls ... ..		248
General ... ..		32
		<hr/> 533

#### ICE CREAM.

24 samples of Ice Cream were collected during the year for bacteriological examination and Methylene Blue Test involving 28 visits. The samples were graded by the Bacteriologist as follows:

Grade 1 ... ..	21
Grade 2 ... ..	2
Grade 3 ... ..	1
Grade 4 ... ..	—



## MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of Registered Distributors ... ..	14
Number of Registered Dairies ... ..	9
New registrations made during the year ... ..	2
Inspections made ... ..	46
Samples of milk collected ... ..	48

## THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949 and 1950.

7 Dealers licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" were issued during the year.

5 supplementary licences were issued in respect of "Tuberculin" "Pasteurised" and "Sterilized" milk.

## THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILIZED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949-53.

The Council exercises the functions of the County Council respecting the issue of licences in respect of pasteurising and sterilising establishments.

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district licensed to retail Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised).

8 Dealers licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" were issued during the year.

## SHOPS ACT.

Number on Register ... ..	273
Inspections made ... ..	45

The District Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences.

7 Certificates of Exemption respecting sanitary accommodation were issued under Section 38.

## FACTORIES ACT.

The Council is responsible for enforcing the provisions relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories and the provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors in those factories not using mechanical power.

Number on Register ... ..	144
Inspections made ... ..	54

## SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS.

Two dealers are registered under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Inspections made ... ..	62
Premises disinfected ... ..	None
Inspections made in connection with food poisoning ... ..	3

## RODENT CONTROL.

The Council is responsible for enforcing the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and Regulations made thereunder, and is required to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that the district is free from rats and mice.

One rodent operative is employed.

The following summary shews the work carried out by the Council for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1957. A total of 3335 visits and inspections were made.

		Type of property		
		Dwelling houses	All other inc. business premises	Agri- cultural premises
No. of properties in the district ... ..		6916	1178	814
No. of properties inspected as a result of				
(a) Notification ... ..		94	19	35
(b) Survey under the Act ... ..		2453	144	390
No. of inspections made by Rodent Oper- ative including re-inspections ... ..		2702	170	458
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by				
(a) Rats Major ... ..		2	0	22
Rats Minor ... ..		453	41	141
(b) Mice Major ... ..				30
Mice Minor ... ..		124	24	177

One serious reservoir infestation was discovered on premises where pigs, poultry and mink were kept and the occupier warned that unless a determined effort was made to control the infestation statutory action would be taken. Proper disinfection was eventually carried out under the rodent operative's supervision and the day following poisoning 65 dead rats were picked up; the total kill was estimated to be over 200 rats.

The Workable Area Committee continued to meet for the discussion of rodent control problems. Councillor A. G. Pike succeeded Councillor H. Wright as Chairman. The area covered by the Committee consists of the districts of Bournemouth County Borough, Christchurch Borough, Lymington Borough, New Forest Rural District and Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises in the district licensed under this Act for the sale of pets; two licences previously issued for stalls at Ringwood Market were not renewed.

#### SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY COUNCIL.

Service	Visits made
Refuse collection and disposal ... ..	143
Street Cleansing ... ..	23
Ringwood Sewerage ... ..	100
Fordingbridge Sewerage ... ..	114
Public Conveniences ... ..	141
Cattle Pound ... ..	17
Car Parks ... ..	36
Ditching ... ..	29
Street Name Plates ... ..	11
Miscellaneous ... ..	2
	<hr/> 616

#### SEWERAGE.

##### RINGWOOD SEWERAGE.

Effluent disposal by land irrigation becomes increasingly difficult and is beyond control at times of exceptionally heavy or prolonged rainfall.

During the year 42 premises were connected to the sewers including 24 Council houses. The total number of premises connected at the end of the year was 1406 including 366 Council houses.

##### FORDINGBRIDGE SEWERAGE.

The sewers, pumping stations and disposal works have been satisfactorily maintained.

During the year 30 premises were connected to the sewers making a total at 31st December of 530 including 188 Council houses.



Sewerage facilities are available for some 786 existing premises and the number connected represents 67 per cent.

The Model Laundry was disconnected from the town drain and connected to the sewer in August, this increased the sewage flow recorded at the works by about 100,000 gallons per week.

The recorded dry weather flow at the end of the year averaged 60,000 gallons per 24 hours. Effluent is discharged into the River Avon and samples are collected regularly for chemical analysis; a highly satisfactory effluent is being produced.

In June the Government published a report on Synthetic Detergents dealing with the impact of detergents on sewage treatment and water supplies. It would appear that widespread use of biologically unoxidizable synthetic detergents constitutes a threat to public health and is presenting to large sewage disposal authorities a problem of considerable magnitude.

#### IBSLEY SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been efficiently maintained; the effluent discharges into the River Avon and is regularly analysed. It has consistently been of a high standard of purity.

#### SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE.

##### TOWN DRAIN, RINGWOOD.

The work of relaying the defective surface water drain in Southampton Road was completed in March.

A section of the surface water drain in Duck Island Lane was renewed; the defective section was abandoned and a new one laid to the outfall by a shorter route.

The County Council is contributing to the cost of these works in accordance with the agreement between the two authorities relating to the repair, renewal and maintenance of the Town Drain.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES) ACT, 1937.

The Chrome Plating Plant at Wellworthy's, Ringwood has been maintained in an excellent manner. Frequent samples of the effluent have been collected for chemical analysis and the results have shown the effluent to comply with the standards imposed by the Council.

39 visits were made in connection with this effluent.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The Council undertakes a combined collection of household and unburnable refuse weekly in the lighting areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. A collection of unburnable refuse only is carried out monthly in the remainder of the district. Receptacles have to be placed outside the premises as near as practicable to the roadway along which the collection vehicle proceeds.

The four refuse collection vehicles covered a total mileage of 21,015 during the year and the large Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping Freighter put into service in 1955 enabled us to deal with a 10 per cent. increase in the amount of refuse collected without alteration in the service.

The following summary shewing the estimated amount of refuse collected throughout the district during the past four years serves to indicate the steady increase in the work of collection and disposal.

Verwood Road						Sandleheath				
Year						Dump	Dump			Total
1956	...	...	...	...	...	11,593 cu. yds.	4,643 cu. yds.			16,236
1955	...	...	...	...	...	10,467 „ „	4,355 „ „			14,822
1954	...	...	...	...	...	9,697 „ „	4,127 „ „			13,824
1953	...	...	...	...	...	8,946 „ „	3,819 „ „			12,765

As a result of an extension of the Ringwood Lighting Area some 80 dwellings were provided with weekly refuse collections in place of the monthly collection of unburnable refuse.

A new dump at Messrs. Morey's sandpits, Verwood Road, was brought into use early in the year and it is anticipated this will provide disposal facilities for five years.

The Verwood Road Refuse Dump was found to be on fire during the August Bank Holiday weekend. The Fire Brigade attended but all efforts to extinguish it proved unsuccessful and the dump burned continuously for several months.

The Sandleheath Dump was discovered to be on fire in the early hours of November 8th. The Brigade was unable to cope with the fire but co-operated by supplying 1,500 feet of hose which enabled a continuous supply of water to be directed into the fire and with the assistance of a drag line excavator it was successfully brought under control in four days.

The following schedule of collection days is produced for the information of Councillors:—

## WEEKLY SERVICE

**Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood.**

Addison Square, Bickerley, Carvers Lane, Christchurch Road, The Close, College Road, Collins Lane, Coniston Road, Coxstone Lane, Deweys Lane, Duck Island, Fridays Cross, High Street, Hightown Road from Christchurch Road to Parsonage Barn Lane, Kings Arms Lane, Kingsbury Lane, Lynes Lane, Market Place, Meeting House Lane, Middle Lane, Mount Pleasant, New Road, New Street, Northumberland Court, Nursery Road, Quomp, Riverside, School Lane, Star Lane, Strides Lane, Southampton Road from Fridays Cross to Mount Pleasant, Southfield, Top Lane, West Street, Woodstock Lane.

Every  
Monday

Beechcroft Lane, Broadshard Lane, Cadogan Road, Cloughs Road, Eastfield Lane, East View Road, Fairlie Park, Fairlie Estate, Gipsy Lane, Gravel Lane, Hampton Drive, Highfield Avenue, Highfield Drive, Highfield Road, Hightown Road from Parsonage Barn Lane to Eastfield Lane, Hiltom Road, Hurst Corner, Hurst Road, Manor Road, Meadow Road, Merryweather Estate, Middleton Road, Morant Road, Northfield Road, North Poulner Road, Parsonage Barn Lane, Queens Way, Salisbury Road, Seymour Road, Southampton Road from Mount Pleasant to Eastfield Lane, Wessex Estate, Wessex Road, Westbury Road, Winston Way.

Every  
Tuesday

**Lighting Area of the Parish of Fordingbridge.**

Albion Road, Alexandra Road, Ashford Road, Back Street, The Bartons, Bowerwood Road, Bridge Street, Church Street, Green Lane, High Street, Horseport, Jubilee Close, Jubilee Road, Lower Bartons, Market Place, Mud Lane, Park Road, Pennys Lane, Picket Close, Provost Street, Roundhill, Salisbury Road, Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury Street, Station Road, St. George's Road, The Square, Victoria Road, Waverley Road, Whitsbury Road.

Every  
Wednesday

## MONTHLY SERVICE

**The whole of the parishes of****in every month**

Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury ... ..	Second Thursday
Woodgreen and Hale ... ..	Second Thursday
St. Leonards and St. Ives ... ..	First Thursday
Ellingham (including the areas of Blashford, Rockford, Highwood, Linwood, Linford and Shobley) ... ..	Third Thursday
Harbridge and Ibsley (including the areas of South Gorley, Furzehill, Mockbeggar, Ibsley, Harbridge Green, Bleak Hill and Turmer) ... ..	Third Thursday
Ringwood (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of North Poulner, Hangersley, Hightown, Crow, Crow Hill, Moortown, Kingston, Sandford and Bisterne) ...	Fourth Thursday

Damerham and Breamore ... ..	First Friday
Fordingbridge (Non-Lighting Area) (including the areas of Burgate, Sandleheath, Bickton, North Gorley, Ogdens, Hungerford, Hyde, Frogham, Stuckton, Blissford and Godshill) ... ..	Second Friday
Sopley (including the area of Avon, Ripley and Shirley)	First Friday
Hurn (including the areas of Parley Green and East Parley) ... ..	First Friday
Christchurch East (including the areas of Winkton, Burton, Bransgore, Neacroft, Thorneyhill and Hinton)	Third Friday
Burley (including the area of Burley Street) ... ..	Fourth Friday

### STREET CLEANSING.

The new scheme came into operation on the 1st April when this Council took over from the County Council the cleansing of additional publicly repairable roads. Cleansing is now carried out in respect of some  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles of roads in Ringwood and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles in Fordingbridge; the County Council contributes to the cost of this in accordance with the Ministry of Transport's formula, viz.:—

50 per cent. of the first £150 per mile of expenditure

40 per cent. of the next £100                   ,,                   ,,

30 per cent. of expenditure above £250 per mile.

This work has been satisfactorily maintained despite labour difficulties.

### LITTER RECEPTACLES.

8 receptacles in Ringwood Shopping Centre and 6 in Fordingbridge are provided and maintained by the Council. In addition 8 have been provided at lay-byes and bus drawn-ins, 7 of these by the County Council.

### COUNCIL DEPOT.

Demolition of an old building which had become dangerous was carried out together with some rebuilding work.

The four refuse collecting vehicles and three vans are garaged here; a 1,000 gallon diesel fuel storage tank and 300 gallon petrol tank are installed.

### DITCHING.

The Town Mill ditch and Church Square ditch at Fordingbridge were cleaned out as in past years. With the disconnection of sink wastes from the former and the laundry effluent from the latter the condition of these ditches has been greatly improved.



## SALVAGE.

The salvage scheme was successfully maintained throughout the year and sales produced £1248 17 1½. Salvage is collected with the refuse and no additional labour is employed.

The total sum paid to the workmen for the year under the incentive bonus scheme amounted to £94 18s. 6d. as compared with £98 in 1955.

The Public Health and General Purposes Committee investigated the possibility of making special collections throughout the district to enable residents to dispose of such things as old perambulator bodies, cycle frames and rusty iron fencing otherwise than by depositing in streams, hedges or neighbours' gardens. In view of the cost involved it was considered that the time was inopportune for such additional collections.

In May the Ministry of Housing and Local Government requested authorities to see what steps could be taken as a permanent feature of refuse disposal arrangements to recover the maximum quantity of ferrous scrap from refuse. Although fully appreciative of the need for compressed destructor scrap the Council was satisfied that such a scheme would be most uneconomical in this district.

In June the Waste Paper Recovery Association informed authorities that a surplus in stocks existed and recommended an 'ease up' in recovery. In November the Association stated that excessive stocks had been created and that it was essential for authorities to accept for the first six months of 1957 a cut of at least 10 per cent. on their deliveries during 1956.

Details of salvage are shown in the following summary:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.	No	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ... ..	163	6				846	17	4½
Textiles ... ..	5	6	2	14		131	14	5½
Ferrous ... ..	19	16	2	11		205	1	5½
Non-ferrous ... ..		8	2	8		51	0	2
Batteries ... ..		2	2	22	7	11	3	8
Bones ... ..		10				3	0	0
	189	10	1	27	7	1248	17	1½



Salvage sales for the previous years are shown below:—

	£
1941 ... ..	414
1942 ... ..	1208
1943 ... ..	1089
1944 ... ..	908
1945 ... ..	574
1946 ... ..	495
1947 ... ..	342
1948 ... ..	949
1949 ... ..	740
1950 ... ..	608
1951 ... ..	1674
1952 ... ..	937
1953 ... ..	572
1954 ... ..	669
1955 ... ..	1280
1956 ... ..	1249

The following summary shows the variations in prices of waste paper over the last six years. At the end of the year the prices were almost down to 1953 level.

Baled waste paper	Dec. 1951	£16. 0s. per ton.
	Dec. 1952	5. 10s. „
	Dec. 1953	4. 10s. „
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s. „
	Dec. 1955	8. 0s. „
	Dec. 1956	6. 10s. „
Unbaled waste paper	Dec. 1951	£13. 0s. per ton
	Dec. 1952	3. 0s. „
	Dec. 1953	1. 10s. „
	Dec. 1954	3. 10s. „
	Dec. 1955	5. 0s. „
	Dec. 1956	3. 10s. „
Books and magazines	Dec. 1951	£16. 15s. per ton
	Dec. 1952	6. 0s. „
	Dec. 1953	3. 10s. „
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s. „
	Dec. 1955	7. 10s. „
	Dec. 1956	4. 10s. „
Newspapers	Dec. 1951	£18. 5s. per ton
	Dec. 1952	6. 10s. „
	Dec. 1953	3. 10s. „
	Dec. 1954	6. 0s. „
	Dec. 1955	8. 0s. „
	Dec. 1956	5. 5s. „

## CAR PARKS.

The surfaced area of the Ringwood Park at present provides accommodation for about 100 cars. During the year the Fordingbridge Park was marked out with white lines providing parking bays for 65 cars.

## CATTLE POUND.

The Police impounded a total of 89 animals in the Ringwood Pound during the year compared with 101 in 1955 and 53 in 1954.

The total fees paid in respect of the 89 animals amounted to £46. The impounding fees are £2 per owner for each impounding irrespective of the number impounded.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The interior repainting of the conveniences at Ringwood was carried out during the year and the walls tiled with glazed tiles; the work of maintaining the conveniences in a cleanly condition and the walls free from obscene inscriptions is now possible.

The Council contributes towards the cost of maintaining conveniences for use by the public at The Lamb Inn, Ringwood, The Greyhound Hotel and the New Inn, Fordingbridge.

## STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT, PETROLEUM MIXTURES AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Number of premises on register ... ..	97
Inspections made ... ..	100
Petroleum Spirit ... ..	93
Petroleum Mixtures ... ..	9
Carbide of Calcium ... ..	2
No. of new petrol applications during year ...	3
gallonage licensed—223,240	
,, ,, 3,860	
amount licensed—7 cwts.	
in respect of 8,750 gallons	

The Council is responsible for seeing that Petroleum Spirit, Mixtures, etc., are stored in accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, the Petroleum Spirit (Motor Vehicles, etc.) Regulations, 1929 and the Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.

Cellulose solutions, Dope and Thinners are “Inflammable liquids” under the Cellulose Solutions Regulations, 1934 and may also be a “mixture of petroleum” if the solution has a flash point of 73 deg. F. or under. Premises where these solutions are stored must also comply with Section 34 (13)(d) of the Factories Act, 1937 relating to means of escape in case of fire.

## BUILDING BYELAWS.

## PLANS.

Number of plans received ... ..	578
Number of plans approved ... ..	548
Number of plans rejected ... ..	27
Number of plans no objection ...	3

The classification of the approved plans is as follows:—

220 plans in respect of 405 dwellings
110 plans in respect of structural alterations and additions
115 plans in respect of garages
73 plans in respect of drainage works
39 plans in respect of agricultural buildings
18 plans in respect of conversions.

## Inspections—

Foundations ... ..	329
Oversite ... ..	317
Damp proof courses ... ..	301
Water tests to drains ... ..	515
Completed works ... ..	376
Sewer connections ... ..	41
Miscellaneous inspections ... ..	1069

## Contraventions—

Contravention of Building Byelaws	101
Number of informal notices served ...	97

Under the Building Restrictions (War Time Contraventions Act) 1946 the further use of a building was permitted for a period of three years.

Relaxation of byelaws was applied for in two instances of alterations and additions, one being in respect of height of rooms and the other open space in rear of a dwelling; in both cases Ministry consent was obtained.

## NEW STREET BYELAWS.

6 plans were received for works of laying out new streets.

In an endeavour to overcome the lamentable position created by the wide variation in standards of widths of carriageways and footways required by these Byelaws and by the Planning Authority,



the Building Byelaws Committee agreed a draft of new byelaws with widths of streets, carriage ways and footways to the same standard as those laid down by the County Planning Authority. These were submitted to the Ministry and rejected. The County Council was subsequently asked to consider the making of an Order under Sec. 13 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 which would have the effect of superseding certain byelaws relating to widths of carriageways and footways; this matter is still under consideration.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

Development applications are dealt with by my department together with the work of maintaining the Planning Register and Planning Index Maps and enquirers are advised on planning matters generally.

Inspections in the district are made on behalf of the Planning Authority and reports furnished on contraventions, etc.

During the year 498 visits and inspections were made.

## ESTATE MAINTENANCE.

At the 31st December, 1956 the Council had a total of 1130 occupied dwellings made up as follows:—

Permanent houses ... ..	863
Prefabricated houses ... ..	50
Converted huts (family units) ...	217
	—
	1130

The Council's permanent houses and prefabricated bungalows are sited as follows:—

PARISH	LOCALITY	Traditional	Prefabricated
Breamore	St. George's Cottages	4	
Burley	Campden House	2	
	Warnes Lane	35	6
	Chapel Haye	6	
Christchurch East	Burnt House Lane, Bransgore	20	
	Jopps Corner, Burton	7	
	Footners Lane, Burton	14	6
	Burton Green	4	
	Neacroft	4	
	Westbury Close, Bransgore	32	
	Derritt Lane, Bransgore		6
	Thorneyhill	14	
	Meyrick Close	18	



PARISH	LOCALITY	Traditional	Prefabricated
Damerham	West Park Lane	19	
	South End	4	
Ellingham	Blashford	4	
Fordingbridge	The Bartons	23	
	Lower Bartons	26	
	St. Georges Road and Salisbury Road	20	
	Waverley Road	26	
	Pennys Lane	8	13
	Jubilee Close	16	
	Picket Close	54	
	Tinkers Cross	2	
	Roundhill	2	
Hale	St. George's Cottages	14	
Harbridge & Ibsley	Nil		
Hurn	Nil		
Martin	Townsend	12	
	St. George's Cottages	12	
Ringwood	Hurst Road	42	
	Fairlie Park	36	
	Fairlie Estate	3	
	Manor Road	36	9
	Cloughs Road	8	
	Merryweather	24	
	Eastfield Lane	2	4
	Hightown	8	
	Wessex Estate	92	
	Queens Way	71	
	Winston Way	46	
	Moortown	10	
	66 & 68, Christchurch Road and 55, Bickerley	3	
Rockbourne	Mintys Hill	6	
	Bourne Cottages	6	
	Whipps Hill	2	
Sopley	Avon	4	
	Ripley	2	
St. Leonards & St. Ives	Ashley	4	
	Woolsbridge Road	16	
	Glenives Close and The Close	10	6
	Old School	1	
Whitsbury	Lower Grove	11	
Woodgreen	Hill Close	12	
	St. George's Cottages	6	

The maintenance of these scattered estates entailed a total of 3615 visits and inspections during the year as follows:—

Permanent Houses ... ..	2390
Prefabricated bungalows ... ..	181
Requisitioned houses ... ..	25
Converted huts ... ..	900
Other Council property ... ..	119
	<hr/>
	3615

At the end of the year the position regarding this Council's occupied family units in converted huts was as follows:—

Holmsley (Christchurch East Parish) ... ..	26
Ibsley (Harbridge & Ibsley Parish) ... ..	51
Ibsley (Ellingham Parish) ... ..	6
Hurn (Hurn Parish) ... ..	75
Hurn (Sopley Parish) ... ..	59
	<hr/>
	217

During the year 67 new Council houses were completed and occupied and 46 huts (family units) were taken out of use for housing purposes. Three hut sites (Nos. 3 and 5, Gorley and Godshill) were cleared and derequisitioned.

Drainage schemes on a number of estates where main sewerage is not available and effluent disposal is by land irrigation presented serious problems when irrigation systems ceased to function as a result of the low permeability factor of the subsoils.

The new sewage disposal works at Warnes Lane, Burley came into operation in September together with the new effluent drain which discharges at Shappen Bottom into a newly formed ditch conveying the effluent into Avon Water. Samples of effluent are regularly analysed and are highly satisfactory. It is of interest to note that for the first time since these houses were occupied (1947) the site is free from the serious problem of effluent disposal. Some members will recall the continuous struggle in this connection including an attempt to penetrate the Bracklesham Beds by boring to a depth of over 100ft.

Meyrick Close Estate, Bransgore (18 dwellings) was completed in December; the sewage disposal works dealing with this estate are far from satisfactory due to the failure of the Stoddart Distributing System and this has been brought to the notice of the manufacturers and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The 'Do It Yourself' campaign which is so popular at the moment would appear to be responsible for the enthusiastic attacks on chimneys by tenants at Bransgore, Burton and Fordingbridge where it became necessary to send contractors to remove from the flues sweeping brushes which had become detached from rods.

Eight pre-war houses at Hightown Elm, Ringwood, were modernised during the year by the provision of water closets, new drainage systems and hot water supply. Thirty-two houses at Breamore, Damerham, Woodgreen, Martin, Ripley and Neacroft remain with earth closets and in view of the limitations on expenditure the Housing Committee reluctantly deferred further schemes of improvement.

As a result of the extension of the Water Company's main to Breamore, the four Council houses were provided with piped supplies. All Council houses throughout the district now have piped supplies of water from the West Hants Water Company's mains.

A period of sharp frosts early in the year resulted in freezing up of pipes at 137 permanent dwellings and the total cost of frost damage amounted to £250. All tenants had previously been supplied with specially printed instruction cards detailing precautions to be taken in the event of frosts. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government subsequently issued a circular to all authorities setting out recommendations to prevent the recurrence of frost damage, a number of the recommendations were already operative and the Housing Committee agreed to incorporate others in the planning of future houses.

## HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT SMALL DWELLINGS (ACQUISITION) ACTS.

183 visits and inspections were made in connection with the total of 89 dwellings constructed or purchased with assistance under these Acts since 1941.

## STATUTORY ACTION.

During the year 3 statutory notices were served where informal action had proved unsuccessful; details are as follows:—

Clay Grinding Factory, Station Yard, Ringwood ...	Sec. 94 P.H.A. 1936
Adastra Cafe, St. Leonards ... ..	Sec. 39 P.H.A. 1936
Pound House, Burley ... ..	Sec. 50 P.H.A. 1936



## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was found necessary to institute proceedings in four instances as follows:—

Picket Post School, Ringwood	Sec. 39 P.H.A.	Absolute discharge subject to payment of £5 9s. costs.
No. 5, Winkton	Sec. 94 P.H.A.	Nuisance Order requiring completion in 28 days. Costs £2 2s. awarded Council.
Winkton Farm Caravan Site	Sec. 269 P.H.A.	£5 fine imposed and £2 2s. costs.
Parkstone & Bourne- mouth Co-operative Society	Sec. 2 Food & Drugs Act, 1955	£25 fine imposed and £6 5s. 8d. costs.

## STAFF.

Mr. J. W. Preston, a technical assistant in the department, terminated his services on the 30th April and Mr. M. D. Blake was appointed in his place and commenced duties on 2nd July.

Mr. J. P. Emerson was appointed an Additional Public Health Inspector to assist in Slum Clearance and Food Hygiene work and commenced duties on the 1st June.

## CONCLUSION.

I am indebted to Miss Hilary Christy, Ringwood, for records of rainfall which she has supplied for many years.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council, Mr. F. W. Pilbrow and Dr. D. J. N. McNab for their confidence and support, and the staff of my department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD A. UPSTONE,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.